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24 DEC 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Reception of Returnees from Overseas

1. In accordance with your request, we have discussed the problem of Reception of Returnees from Overseas with individuals at various levels who have recently returned from overseas. It was the unanimous opinion of the group, after discussing the problem with their families, that a "Welcoming Committee" as such would not serve a real purpose. The feeling was expressed that such an arrangement was needed overseas where language and customs' differences exist, but that on arrival in this country, an individual feels that he has returned home and would prefer to handle his personal problems in his own way. It was stated that the approval of the Home Service Transfer Allowance, providing for the reimbursement of Temporary Quarters' Costs for up to thirty (30) days following return to this country, eliminated the most serious single problem facing the returnee.

2. It was suggested that a centralized record of reasonably priced temporary furnished housing (apartment developments where furnished apartments are available for rental to transients on a short-term basis) would serve as a definite asset to the returnee in locating temporary quarters while awaiting arrival of household effects and while shopping for a more permanent residence. A further problem which was discussed and which could be resolved on a centralized service basis was transportation to and from the office during the period immediately following return to Headquarters. If information regarding bus routes and schedules could be made available to the employee during his processing in, it would save him having to "dig" this information up on his own at a later date, and in some instances, might influence his selection of temporary and permanent housing.

3. It is recognized that in some special cases, special attention and procedures are required; however, in these instances the type of attention and reception must be tailored to the case. Presently, such cases are being handled in this manner.

4. In view of the reactions received and expressed above, we do not recommend that welcoming committees be established in each office, but would suggest that serious consideration be given to providing coverage of the problems discussed in paragraph 2 above in the Central Processing Branch, Office of Personnel.

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